

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS WRAP-UP 2/77

REF: STATE 033999

1. VII OASGA. PERMANENT COUNCIL VOTED AT LAST REGULAR SESSION TO SET JUNE 14 AS OPENING DATE FOR VII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. DESPITE SEVERE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS ON THE ISLAND AND WIDESPREAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT ITS ERRATIC PM ERIC GAIRY, GRENADA WILL BE THE SITE UNLESS UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE CANCELLATION. IN THAT CASE, HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON) WILL BE ONLY LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE.

2. SURINAM. SURINAM TOOK ITS PLACE AS THE 25TH MEMBER OF
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THE OAS (26TH IF CUBA IS INCLUDED) AT A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 22. CEREMONIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT WERE SPEECH BY SURINAM PM HENCK AARON AND SIGNING OF CHARTER THAT FOLLOWED.

3. CHARTER REFORM. FORMAL APPROVAL OF PROTOCOL OF REFORM BY PERMANENT COUNCIL EXPECTED AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK BUT NO

DATE WILL BE SET FOR SPECIAL GA ON CHARTER REFORM. LIMA HAS BEEN SELECTED AS SITE BUT TIMING IS DEPENDENT ON A

VARIETY OF FACTORS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS STANCE NEW US ADMINISTRATION ADOPTS TOWARD DRAFT OAS CHARTER AND REFORM ISSUE IN GENERAL.

4. SPECIAL GA ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. URUGUAY HAS BEEN SELECTED AS SITE AND PREPARATIONS LIMP ALONG IN FORM OF LABORIOUS WRITING OF AN AGENDA. NO DATE FOR THIS GA EVEN DISCUSSED AND ENTHUSIASM STILL LACKING AMONG ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS. AS WITH CHARTER REFORM GA, MEMBER COUNTRIES EVIDENTLY HOLDING BACK IN ANTICIPATION OF SIGNALS FROM NEW US ADMINISTRATION.

5. TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP. THIS WORKING GROUP WAS SPECIALLY MANDATED AT SANTIAGO LAST JUNE TO HELP PREPARE FOR SPECIAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT GA. IT WILL FINALLY MEET FOR FIRST TIME WEEK OF MARCH 7 AND IS SHAPING UP TO BE MORE ORGANIZATIONAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW PRINCIPAL DELEGATE TO REPLACE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GRANGER WHO IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

6. SEVENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE. HELD AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS AND JOINTLY SPONSORED BY OAS AND IICA (INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES). SEVENTH SESSION WILL CONVENE JUNE 6-11 IN EL SALVADOR; MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE TRADITIONALLY ATTEND. CONFIDENTIAL

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AS MEMBERS OF IICA, CANADA AND GUYANA WILL JOIN RANKS OF REGULAR OAS MEMBERS FOR THE MEETING.

7. EIGHTH MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION SCIENCE AND CULTURE. EIGHTH CIECC CONFERENCE ENDED FEBRUARY 11 AFTER WEEK LONG DELIBERATIONS CHARACTERIZED BY NEW AIR OF PRAGMATISM. CONCERN FOR BUDGETARY IMPACT OF PROGRAMS AND NEW PROJECTS IS A FRESH ELEMENT IN CIECC AND MORE IN TUNE WITH US PREOCCUPATIONS. US HEAD OF DELEGATION'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ON HEELS OF OPENING SPEECH BY GOU MINISTER OF EDUCATION, FOCUSED DELEGATES' AND URUGUAYAN PUBLIC'S ATTENTION ON LINKAGE BETWEEN HUMAN FREEDOMS AND PROGRESS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE. GOU'S EFFORT TO WIN APPROVAL FOR RESOUNDING "DECLARATION OF MONTEVIDEO" WAS SIDETRACKED. WELL-QUALIFIED BRAZILIAN CANDIDATE SUPPORTED BY US WON ELECTION AS NEW CIECC CHAIRMAN. US CANDIDATE LOST BID FOR VACANCY ON EDUCATION COMMITTEE. MEETING ADOPTED US-INITIATED PROPOSALS ON NATURE PROTECTION AND WILDLIFE

PRESERVATION, AND ART CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES TO
NEW OAS BUILDING IN WASHINGTON. CIECC AGAIN URGED US TO
CONTRIBUTE TO SPECIAL CULTURAL FUND.
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